REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated June 3, 2005. In response to the issues raised, Applicant offers the following submissions.

Priority Document

A copy of priority document AU 2003900861 is submitted herewith as it was omitted during filing.

Claims - Novelty

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16 to 18 stand rejected as lacking novelty in light of US 5,453,931 to Watts Jr.

The Applicant disagrees. Independent claims 1 and 18 both require the robot to operate in conjunction with an interface surface having coded data disposed thereon or therein. Claims 1 and 18 also define a sensing device for reading the coded data and generating indicating data.

Watts Jr. does not disclose any surface with coded data thereon or therein. The work surface in the Watts Jr. disclosure may have a reference marking that the surveying robot can use as a starting point, or it may use distant points that are remote from the surface as references. The surveying robot then marks the surface with its emitter as it navigates to various coordinates by calculating its position relative to the reference points. It measures the distance it travels, and its direction of travel, using the encoded stepper motors 91 on the drive tracks, and the retro-reflective, photo-electric orientation sensors 68. The Watts Jr. robot does not sense and decode any encoded data from the work surface. The work surface carries no readable information. The on-board computer does not generate indicating data which is then transmitted to a computer system for movement instructions. The communication means identified by the Examiner at column 3, line 28, and lines 45-58, is merely an input port for "data input from an independent source". It is not a means of two way communications and not a means by which the robot sends decoded information to a computer system and subsequently receives movement instructions.

Accordingly claims 1 and 18 are clearly novel in light of Watts Jr. as it fails to disclose several claims elements – a sensing device that senses encoded data from an interface surface, and subsequently generates indicating data, and a communication means that transmits the indicating data to a computer system and receives movement instructions.

Likewise, claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16 and 17 are similarly novel by virtue of their appendance to claim 1.

Claims – Obviousness

Claim 3 stands rejected as obvious in light of Watts Jr. in view of US 4,864,618 to Wright et al. Claims 6, 9, 12, 19 and 20 stand rejected as obvious in light of Watts Jr. in view of US

5,652,412 to Luzon. Claims 5, 7 and 13 stand rejected as obvious in light of Watts Jr. in view of US 5,692,073 to Cass, in further view of US 6,220,865 to Macri et al. Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected as obvious in light of Watts Jr. in view of US 6,076,734 to Dougherty et al.

The cited references fail to support rejections under the provisions of 35 USC§103, as the proposed combinations do not teach all the elements defined by the claims against which they are cited.

As discussed above, Watts Jr. fails to disclose several essential claim elements defined by claims 1 and 18. Claims 3, 5-7, 9, 12-15 are directly or indirectly appended to claim 1 and therefore, these claims are not rendered obvious by the combined teachings of Watts Jr. and Wright, Luzon, Cass and Macri, or Dougherty respectively.

Claim 19 also defines a robot that can sense coded data in or on an interface surface such that it can generate indicating data that is transmitted to a computer system that provides movement instructions. As discussed above, Watts Jr. and Luzon fail to disclose these elements. Accordingly, claim 19 does not offend 35 USC§103.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed. The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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